

Draft of North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Minutes

July 8, 2013 Scheduled Meeting, North Haven Recreation Center

Members in Attendance: Letty McPhedran, David Yaccarino, Caroline Dumont, Kenny Foscue, Tyler Smith, Richard LoPresti, and David Cooper

- 1) **Energy Legislation:** David Yaccarino reported on the energy legislation passed by the Connecticut General Assembly. He provided the Office of Legislative Research Bill Analysis documents for HB6360 and SB1138.

Under HB6360, David Y reported that sulfur content restrictions for oil or gas would match those set by Rhode Island and New York. He also reported there will be a 10-year conservation plan funded in the amount of \$1.2 billion in which \$90 to \$120 million would be spent each year. There will be virtual net metering and 3/10s higher rates to fund the construction of natural gas pipelines, loans for upgrades, and regulations to burn ultra low sulfur oil in furnaces.

Under SB1138 measures were approved to reach the regional clean energy targets of 20% by 2020. David Y indicated that 10% of the state's energy portfolio is provided by renewables. The new measure allows 5% of the energy total to be provided by clean hydroelectric power transported from Quebec. The electricity can be delivered over existing lines. The Regional Portfolio Standard (RPS) includes 4% of renewable energy produced through class 1 renewables. Twenty-year contracts are allowed for this category of energy production. Ten-year contracts have been approved for small hydro, methane generated at landfills, and the burning of biomass.

If Connecticut does not meet the target of 20% by 2020, there is a 1% penalty shortfall a year for up to five years. This could amount to several hundred million dollars.

Kenny Foscue recommended that a group such as the state legislature funded CT Academy of Science and Engineering should study the goals and projections of the energy legislation and clean energy alternatives in general to determine what clean energy policies could have the most positive economic impacts on CT. He stated that organizations like the Rocky Mountain Institute (<http://www.rmi.org/>) has performed such work.

David C suggested that the General Assembly could convene a special task force working with an engineering consulting group to study the effects of the legislation. Kenny announced that a meeting of the group administering the Regional Portfolio Standard would be meeting soon in Newport, Rhode Island.

- 2) **North Haven Municipal Buildings Benchmarking:** Letty and Caroline reported that arrangements have been made to conduct an energy audit of municipal buildings in

North Haven through the University of New Haven project. It will be done by Adam Siperli, a graduate student, working under the supervision of Amy Thompson. The benchmarking will cover electric, gas, oil, and water expenses. Vehicles will not be included in the baseline survey. Easton and Woodbridge already have been done. West Haven, Fairfield, and Shelton are already in process.

The benchmarking uses 2008 as the baseline year. The benchmarking requires about two weeks of work if the bills are available and in order. Water expenses are recorded through the Water Pollution Authority for dirty water cleanup and through the Regional Water Authority for drinking water. Square footage and volumes will be recorded for all buildings and a power point presentation will be prepared for the town. The Task Force will be able to comment on the report before it is forwarded to town officials. Lead By Example was suggested by David C as a way to upgrade town buildings. Kenny Foscue mentioned that Bill Leahy of the ECSU Institute for Sustainable Energy, with an intern, might be available to train town personnel in energy efficiency. His name has been given to Ed Swinkoski.

- 3) **North Haven Energy Solutions (HES):** Richard LoPresti said that he showed the standard letter to First Selectman Freda. Freda had no problem with the letter. He indicated that solar will no longer be eligible to earn points in the program. The letter describes the HES campaign. Energize Hamden was cited as starting in June. Contractors can be approved by UI to provide the services covered by the program. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) sites were mentioned as good sources to learn more about the HES campaign. Caroline offered to contact the person who maintains the North Haven blog to write a story on Energize North Haven. Letty said she wanted to delay the start of the campaign. Richard wants to start as early as possible. Richard offered to customize the letter for the campaign to be sent out under the name of Mike Freda. The letter will attach the pamphlet on the program prepared by Amy McLean Salls. Richard said that the project could take place during the fall and winter.

Letty said that the North Haven High School Project Green will be a great way to advertise the HES program by setting up a table at football games. Terry Eickel of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network was mentioned as having a power point presentation that can be shown at local churches. A schedule should be prepared for her. Additional ways of promoting the program included a YouTube show, a presentation to be shown on local television channel 18, and contact with Walter Mann, an enthusiastic head of the TV station.

TF Contract with Project Green: Tyler agreed to follow up with Mary Mann (239-0053), and the high school adviser for Project Green. Letty will contact Anthony Giordano who will know the process for donating money to the club for the purpose of recruiting homeowners.

- 4) **Solarize Connecticut:** David C expressed the interest of Cheshire and Hamden in seeking partners to participate in the grant application for the Solarize Program. Cheshire sought partnership as a way to better position itself to win a grant. The grant program seeks ways to bring down the costs of solar by increasing the number of applicants. Interest in the program was apparent. However, the Task Force members seek to know more about the program before making any commitments.
- 5) **After School Solar Program:** David C indicated that New Haven schools have expressed interest in an after school solar energy program leading to certification. He asked whether the Task Force would support the idea of an after school solar energy program for North Haven high school students. The Task Force members voted unanimously to support the establishment of an after school solar energy program for North Haven High School students. David C agreed to contact the high school business manager regarding this proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.